



Wisconsin Board for People  
With Developmental Disabilities

Date: April 13, 2010

To: The Honorable Tim Carpenter, Chair  
Members  
Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term  
Care, and Job Creation

From: Cindy Zellner-Ehlers, Chair *CZE/ctc*

Re: Support for SJR 65: Lead poisoning hazards, abatement, and  
request for a study

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities strongly supports SJR 65 and thanks Senator Coggs for introducing the resolution.

Lead poisoning of children is still a major concern in Wisconsin. The facts as described in the Joint Resolution are indisputable. In this day and age children are still being poisoned by lead with terrible consequences.

Lead poisoning is a cross-cutting issue, impacting the Medicaid program, school systems, juvenile justice systems, and the adult court systems. Funding is currently spent in all these areas solely to address the complications of lead poisoning. If lead poisoning were eliminated untold amounts of taxpayer dollars could be saved.

One of the saddest aspects of lead poisoning is that it attacks children when they are most vulnerable. According to the National Institutes of Health, the lead attacks the developing brains and nerves of infants and children. Even unborn children are at risk for lead poisoning.

In order to eliminate lead poisoning, more information is needed. The studies cited in the resolution are critical steps to developing strategies to eliminate poisoning. The Legislature needs this information to take the most cost-effective steps to address poisoning.

Please support Wisconsin children, families, and taxpayers and support SJR 65. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Ondrejka, Executive Director, at 266-1166 or [Jennifer.Ondrejka@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Ondrejka@wisconsin.gov).